

NEWS RELEASE

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway
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SOUTHEAST MISSOURI MAN SENTENCED TO 180 MONTHS FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

January 28, 2008

A Southeast Missouri man was sentenced today for unlawful possession of firearms, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

ERIC W. NORTHERN, age 28, of Morehouse, Missouri, was sentenced to 180 months on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of firearms. He appeared before United States District Judge E. Richard Webber.

In August, 2005, a Scott County resident discovered that three firearms of his had been stolen from a shed at his residence. In early September, 2005, Eric W. Northern was in possession of the three firearms, described as a Mossberg, 12 gauge shotgun, bearing serial number UM691678, and a Mossberg, 12 gauge shotgun, bearing serial number UM98067, and a

Mossberg, 12 gauge shotgun, bearing serial numberP129580. Mr. Northern gave two of the shotguns to a man in settlement of a debt. Mr. Northern sold the third shotgun to another man. All three shotguns were recovered during the investigation of this offense.

Due to Mr. Northern's five previous felony convictions for burglary, he is prohibited from possessing firearms.

Hanaway praised the Scott County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.